

Inquiries of the Ministry

Act, so as to allow such normal bargaining units?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, an inquiry by experts is being undertaken at the present time into the field of labour legislation. Until they make their report to the government it would be premature to say what might or might not be done in this field.

[Translation]

Mr. Allard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Prime Minister aware that on October 25 last, 35 federal Liberal members from Quebec spoke publicly in favour of normal bargaining units?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is out of order.

[English]

NATURAL GAS**TRANS-CANADA PIPE LINES—SUGGESTED TWINNING OF LINE IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether he has seen the report emanating from Washington today indicating that the examiner for the federal power commission states that the commission will not make a decision on the Trans-Canada application until late this fall, and that there may be another two years delay as a result of commission hearings and court procedures. In light of this, is the minister contemplating asking the cabinet to ask the National Energy Board to reassess the situation with a view to twinning the line in northern Ontario immediately because of shortages of natural gas in both northern Ontario and southern Ontario?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the first part of the question stems either from the imagination of the newspaperman or of the hon. member; the suggestion is not to be found in the examiner's commentaries. With respect to the other point, I am quite sure that the hon. member is aware that an application would have to be made to the National Energy Board to do this. It would be entirely illegal to proceed otherwise.

[Mr. Allard.]

Mr. Peters: A supplementary question. Is the minister not of the opinion that the National Energy Board also has a responsibility to the Canadian government in—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now asking the minister to express an opinion and this, of course, is not in order.

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**STUDIES HELD UP BY LACK OF QUALIFIED STAFF**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I promised to answer a question asked by the hon. member for Prince about possible delays in construction projects undertaken by the Atlantic Development Board. The information that I have from the board is that no construction projects have been delayed because of staff shortages, but some economic planning studies have been held up due to difficulties in obtaining staff with the necessary qualifications. I could give the hon. gentleman a list of those studies.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**AFRICA—REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EXTERNAL AID OFFICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I wonder whether the Prime Minister might consider contacting his parliamentary secretary, who is now on special assignment in west and north Africa, to see whether his itinerary might be diverted to enable him to visit central and east Africa to meet at first hand some of the 1,000 Canadians in that area who are serving under the external aid branch and CUSO, and who are reported to be complaining bitterly that they are forgotten men as far as the Canadian government is concerned.

May I ask further, if this is not possible, whether the Prime Minister would consider setting up a regional external aid office in the area so these dedicated representatives who serve Canada so ably might have more effective co-ordination and direction, which is so essential.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): My hon. friend's question has undoubtedly been inspired by a story in a morning newspaper. The Prime Minister suggested that I reply to this question. I think